1. (Once Amended) A method to [protect] treat an obligate carnivore [from] for a disease of abnormal carbohydrate metabolism, said method comprising feeding said obligate carnivore a nutritionally balanced diet comprising a protein content of from about 30% to about 70% on a dry matter basis, a fat content amount of from about 10% to about 40% on a dry matter basis, and a carbohydrate content of not more than about 12% on a dry matter basis.

B1

2. (Reiterated) The method of Claim 1, wherein said obligate carnivore is selected from the group consisting of Felids, Hyaenids, Viverrids, and obligately carnivorous Mustelids.

3. (Reiterated) The method of Claim 1, wherein said obligate carnivore is selected from the group consisting of *Felis domesticus, Felis silvestris, Panthera leo, Panthera tigris, Panthera pardus, Puma concolor, Crocuta crocuta, Hyaena hyaena,* and *Putorius furo.*

4. (Reiterated) The method of Claim 1, wherein said carbohydrate content is not more than about 6% on a dry matter basis.

5. (Reiterated) The method of Claim 1, wherein said carbohydrate content is not more than about 2% on a dry matter basis.

8. (Reiterated) The method of Claim 1, wherein said nutritionally balanced diet is selected from the group consisting of a dry diet and a wet diet.

7 ~~8~~. (Once Amended) A method to [protect] treat an obligate carnivore [from] for a disease of abnormal carbohydrate metabolism, said method comprising:

B2

(a) producing a nutritionally balanced diet comprising a protein content of from about 30% to about 70% on a dry matter basis, a fat content amount of from about 10% to about 40%

B3

on a dry matter basis, and a carbohydrate content of not more than about 12% on a dry matter basis; and

B2

(b) feeding said diet to said obligate carnivore.

10 ~~12~~. (Once Amended) An animal food composition for [protecting] treating an obligate carnivore [from] for a disease of abnormal carbohydrate metabolism, said composition comprising a nutritionally balanced diet having a protein content of from about 30% to about 70% on a dry matter basis, a fat content amount of from about 10% to about 40% on a dry matter basis, and a carbohydrate content of not more than 6% on a dry matter basis.

B3

9 ~~13~~. (Once Amended) The method of Claim [11]1, wherein said carbohydrate content is not more than [6%] 4% on a dry matter basis.

14. (Reiterated) The composition of Claim 12, wherein said carbohydrate content is not more than about 4% on a dry matter basis.

15. (Reiterated) The composition of Claim 12, wherein said carbohydrate content is not more than about 2% on a dry matter basis.

16. (Reiterated) The composition of Claim 12, wherein said composition is selected from the group consisting of a dry composition and a wet composition.

15 ~~18~~. (Once Amended) A method to [protect] treat an obligate carnivore [from] for a disease of abnormal carbohydrate metabolism, said method comprising feeding said obligate carnivore a nutritionally balanced food composition that comprises a percentage of carbohydrate on a dry matter

B4

B4 basis that is not more than the highest percentage of carbohydrate on a dry matter basis that will [protect] treat said obligate carnivore [from] for said disease of abnormal carbohydrate metabolism.

18 ~~22~~. (Once Amended) A method to [protect] treat an obligate carnivore [from] for a disease selected from the group consisting of diabetes mellitus and obesity, said method comprising feeding said obligate carnivore a nutritionally balanced diet comprising a protein content of from about 30% to about 70% on a dry matter basis, a fat content amount of from about 10% to about 40% on a dry matter basis, and a carbohydrate content of not more than about 12% on a dry matter basis.

B5

9 ~~23~~. (Once Amended) The method of Claim [11]1, wherein said disease is selected from the group consisting of diabetes mellitus and obesity.

24. (Reiterated) The composition of Claim 12, wherein said composition prevents development of a disease selected from the group consisting of diabetes mellitus and obesity.

19 ~~25~~. (Once Amended) A method to treat diabetes mellitus in an obligate carnivore by decreasing exogenous insulin requirements of said obligate carnivore, said method comprising feeding said obligate carnivore an animal food composition [of Claim 12]comprising a nutritionally balanced diet having a protein content of from about 30% to about 70% on a dry matter basis, a fat content amount of from about 10% to about 40% on a dry matter basis, and a carbohydrate content of not more than 12% on a dry matter basis.

B6

26. (Reiterated) The method of Claim 18, wherein said disease is selected from the group consisting of diabetes mellitus and obesity.

17 ~~28~~. (Once Amended) The method of Claim [28] 15 ~~18~~, wherein said disease is selected from the group consisting of diabetes mellitus and obesity.

B7

B

Please add the following claims:

20 29. (Added) The method of Claim 19, wherein said carbohydrate content is not more than about 6% on a dry matter basis.

B8

21 30. (Added) The method of Claim 19, wherein said carbohydrate content is not more than about 4% on a dry matter basis.

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Sayala for the courtesy extended to Tim McCutcheon and Carol Talkington Verser during the telephone interview conducted October 26, 2000. Applicant has tried to address all of the Examiner's concerns herein and submit that the claims are in a condition for allowance.

As discussed during the telephone interview, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 9, 12, 18, 22, and 25 to recite methods and compositions to treat an obligate carnivore for a disease of abnormal carbohydrate metabolism. Support for such amendments may be found in the specification at Examples 1, 2, 4 and 5 generally, which describe the use of a diet of the present invention to treat cats for diabetes mellitus and obesity. With respect to Claim 12, which recites an animal food composition to treat an obligate carnivore for a disease of abnormal carbohydrate metabolism, support may be found in Example 3, which describes the preparation of such a diet.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant believes that no fees are due. In the event that fees are due, Applicant requests that such fees be debited against Account No. 081930. In the event that the